

Housing Committee

S.B. No. 4, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs
February 28, 2023

Hello Representative Luxenberg and Senator Moore, Representative Scott, Senator Sampson, Representative Khan, Senator Lesser, Senator Fonfara, Senator Hochadel, Representative Brown, Representative Butler, Representative Gonzalez, Representative Roberts, Representative Polletta, Representative Weir, and Representative Zullo. My name is Win Evarts, I'm the Executive Director of the Arc of Connecticut, Inc., and I live in Norwalk with my wife and 32-year-old son with an intellectual disability.

We support SB 4, AAC Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs. We support the initiative to increase access to affordable housing across the state and believe that the most effective way to do it is by encouraging a wide variety of housing forms including transit-oriented development, cluster housing, supported housing, multi-family dwellings, mixed use buildings, workforce housing development, as well as increasing opportunities for housing for those experiencing homelessness, veterans, apprentices, and newly hired employees as provided in SB 4.

The systemic initiatives could include:

- promoting housing development as outlined in the state's consolidated plan for housing and development;
- changing zoning and infrastructure statutes to encourage integrated living patterns and diverse housing solutions within walking distance to shopping, transit, leisure and open space;
- examining the fiscal experience of municipalities that have embraced affordable housing in terms of municipal staff turnover, absenteeism, and job satisfaction, and;
- require members of Zoning, Planning, Planning and Zoning Commission, or Zoning Board of Appeals to receive training related to affordable housing and fair housing practices and policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

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